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UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
FILE
AND DATE OF THIS LETTER

August 19, 1954

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The "Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Act of 1954", which authorizes the Civil Service Commission to make available group life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance for civilian officers and employees, was signed by the President on August 17th.

Section 15 of this Act stipulates that:

"The insurance provided by this Act and the withholdings and contributions for that purpose shall become effective when directed by the Commission."

In view of the fact that this is beneficial legislation, the Commission strongly feels that its provisions should be made effective at the earliest possible date. In other words, the urgency of protecting employees who die or retire in the near future should outweigh other considerations such as administrative difficulties which will doubtless be involved in placing the program into early operation. I am sure that agency officials will recognize the urgency and will cooperate fully with us in attaining our joint goal.

The Civil Service Commission therefore directs that the insurance under this Act be effective on the first day of the first pay period which begins after August 28, 1954: Provided, That if the head of any agency requests in writing on or before August 28, 1954, that a later effective date be set for his agency or any part thereof, the effective date for such agency or part thereof will be such other date approved by the Commission.

The latter provision is intended to take care only of those groups, notably some employed outside the continental limits of the United States, for which the necessary arrangements cannot possibly be completed by the stated time. In each such case, we will give consideration to setting a different effective date, probably a pay period or a very few pay periods later.

Regulations governing the operations of the Act will be printed in the Federal Register prior to August 28th.

By direction of the Commission:

Sincerely,

/s/ Philip Young

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Chairman